The UNICEF Report further indicated that there were 1686 villages/ habitations in the State of Madhya Pradesh having excess fluoride in the drinking water.

Recruitment of Psychiatrists

551. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately six crore people in our country are suffering from one mental ailment or the other and only limited psychiatrists are there in the country for the treatment of these diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to recruit more psychiatrists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) It is estimated that 5% of the population suffers from various psychological disorders such as depression, neurotics, stress related and adjustment disorders. About 1% of the population suffers from serious mental disorders such as psychotic disorders and 0.5% of the population may be in need of active treatment for serious mental disorders. There are over 3000 qualified psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country.

The efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health delivery system. For this purpose under the National Mental Health Programme, the General Duty Medical Officers are given short-term training in the field of psychiatry for handling cases of mental illness.

AIDS control through awareness

552. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over five million of our people were HIV

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

patients in 2003 and this disease is spreading fast in several states, as per UN report;

(b) whether it is also a fact that drug-injecting is playing a major role in the menace; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to create awareness about this deadly disease among the people and to effectively control the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that there are 51 lakh infections estimated in the year 2003. It is also estimated that 0.2% of infections are among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) in the country.

HIV infection is the earliest form of disease and it takes 8-10 year to develop as AIDS case.

2.58% of AIDS cases in the country are among Injecting Drug Users, out of 102733 AIDS cases reported to NACO till February 2005.

(c) The IEC activities of NACO are operationalised on two levels, at NACO, and through the State AIDS Control Societies, which design IEC Campaigns as per local requirements. A wide variety of activities are undertaken, ranging from use of television and radio, to folk drama, exhibitions, fairs, etc. to reach the audiences, especially in the rural areas. Inter personal communication methods are widely used as they have been seen to effect behaviours change. Each state develops its annual plan of action, and conducts activities in accordance. An IEC Committee at the state level, which has members from the various media units in the state, visualizes the plans, which are approved by NACO after in depth discussions.

Health hazard by mobile phones

553. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many research reports suggest that there are health hazards to children from radio frequency transmission by using cellular phones;